BAY AREA ATARI USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

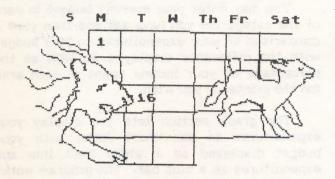
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CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
Bay Area Atari Users Group
4029 Payne Ave.
San Jose, Calif., 95117
Phone 408-244-7181

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BAY AREA ATARI USER GROUP OFFICERS

CHAIRPERSON: DAVE FLORY
4029 PAYNE AVE.
SAN JOSE, CA.,95117
408-244-7181

SPEAKERS: CLYDE SPENCER
1714 B MARSHALL CT.
LOS ALTOS, CA., 94022
415-965-9355

NEWSLETTER: SOMEONE NEEDED

ADVERTISING SALES: SOMEONE NEEDED

TREASURER: VICTOR ROGERS

17595 MANZANITA DR.

MORGAN HILL, CA., 95037

408-779-0185

DOCUMENTS: RON GUDITUS
685 JEFFREY AVE.
CAMPBELL CA., 95008
408-378-5110

SECRETARY: ROBERT KAWARATANI 2460 W. BAYSHORE #8 PALO ALTO, CA., 94303 415-856-3579

PROGRAMS:

DISKS: HANS HANSEN

42663 LERWICK ST. FREMONT, CA., 94538 415-490-0175

TAPES: ROBERT HINDS 4944 NEW WORLD DR. SAN JOSE, CA., 95136 408-226-4513

PROBLEM HOTLINE

EVENING	CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER SPECIALTY
MONDAY	Robin Ziegler	408-438-6879 Graphics
TUESDAY	Chris McAfee	408-258-8442 Hardware
WEDNESDAY	John Crane	408-268-7317 Basic & FORTH
THURSDAY	Paul Conrad	408-226-7676 Basic
FRIDAY	Skip Inskeep	408-251-5517 FORTH
SATURDAY	Bob Burkhalter	408-856-1893 Disc I/O
SUNDAY	Hans Hansen	415-490-0175 DOS I & II

Writers WHERE ARE YOU

This is getting old. So far I have one single contribution for the newsletter from anyone other than myself and my 800 is already "full-house" so I hve no use for the 16 K memory board we are offering for the best contribution to the newsletter. Please remember that the club is only as good as its members make it. I have learned a lot from my membership in the Bay Area Atari User Group. I feel that others do also. I haven't learned evough, in my opinion, to be able to be more than a beginners helper. (If you have any questions, call me. I do know the people who have the answers, most of them anyway.) We need program and article contributions PLEASE desperately. GIVE HELP

I would like to see several people take on a monthly column, one on FORTH, one on ASSEMBLY, one on PILOT, etc. This needn't be a time consuming thing. A couple of short paragraphs with a small program segment to illustrate a point would do it. I have in mind something fairly short explaining some small area of interest. For example a FORTH columnist could simply explain the useage and stack expectations of a few handy words.

Speaking of FORTH, I have now four different implementions. One from ATARI APX, one from Quality Software and two others obtained from individuals who use them. The one from QS was the only one with what could be called documentation. I feel that ATARI may have helped experienced programmers by releasing "Extended fig FORTH" but if their version is the first thing you run into it is very confusing. The documentation is good but Nothing of a tutorial nature is sketchy. included. The Atari contribution is unique in my collection for having floating point words and a decompiler word. Even in my very limited experience this latter has been useful. My experiences with FORTH have been very frustrating and tantalizing. I have learned just barely enough to get a hint of its power, but not enough to use it. Keep on plugging DAVE, maybe if you get the classes going you can make a breakthrough. Dave Flory

FORTH CLASSES

At the last meeting at Computer Capers, John Crane announced the start of his classes on FORTH. They are being held at the ATARI software developement center in Sunnyvale. If you are interested, and weren't there to sign up, see John at the next meeting. There are already enough signups to make two or three sessions of the class necessary.

SOFTWARE REVIEW

There has been a lot of software added since I last wrote a software review, too much to cover completely here so I'll limit my coverage mostly to one program with very brief comments on the rest.

The major program is "Personal Finance for the Atari", produced by COMPUTARI, 9607 Athlone Drive, Dallas, Texas, 75218. This is a fairly complete personal finance program, which allows entering 96 checks each month in 26 user selectable categories. Each check is entered by number, amount, payee, category, & whether it is to be tax deducted.

You may enter your monthly budget in each of the categories you have set and then view a comparison of your expenditures to your budget with the difference displayed as well as the percentage of your income spent in each area (on the printer if you wish.

The graph section lets you display your expenditures in bar chart form, with your budget displayed as a white limit line and expenditures as a blue bar. The program works pretty well. The only really important problem with the way the program works is specifically mentioned in the documentation. You MUST return to the main menu after check entry or they are not recorded on the disk. After they are entered they can be searched on any of the fields and there is wild card search. Checks can be listed on the printer. There is also a checkbook balancing program which uses your entries and allows you to note which ones have cleared.

Any of you who have a subscription to MICRO-MEDIA MAGAZINE will recognize this program which was offered there in a less polished form. I could never get it to work in

the prior version but the present edition seems to be a very useful program. Prospective buyers should bear in mind that Synapse Software is developing a similar package and one might wish to see theirs before making a buy on a personal finance program. I like this one but the quality of Filemanager, and Diskmanager lead me to believe that their finance program will probably be one of the best available.

ONLINE MICROSYSTEMS is probably known to many of you for Jawbreakers. They also produce the Hi-res Adventure series.

The first two available for the ATARI are Mission Asteroid and The Wizard and The Princess. The former is relatively short and designed to introduce you to the series. The Wiz is longer and is an enjoyable adventure. I do find the juggling of disks required to save games and restore games a pain, but the game is still fun. The adventures require booting on one disk and then using a second one containing the pictures of locations and a third one for saving.

The Next Step, a character set editor, is also from ONLINE. It works well as an editor and also writes code for you to load your characters as either a disk file, or, usually for just a few characters, as Basic DATA lines. It also includes a short program called Pallette which lets you choose the setcolor statements you want for a particular color and hue. A few minor rough spots, like the joystick selection of options while editing, but pretty versatile and easy to use.

From APX comes "T: text display device".

For those of you who are interested in the use of modified character sets in programs for graphics, this one is worth examining. It allows many different types of character displays not normally available thru' BASIC. These include half width characters, multicolor characters, use of characters in graphics modes, etc.

STARTREK



ATARI 800 HAS A NEC!

An ATARI with a NEC you say? Well no, its not a new breed, or bad spelling. This NEC is a model PC-8032A-C printer, and an excellent unit it is too. NEC makes the well known "Spinwriter" series, and they also make micro computers, you may have seen the PC-8001A at Central Campbell Computers.

The NEC is a 9x7 dot matrix bidirectional printer with logic seeking the shortest path giving it a printing speed of 100cps. It has dot addressable graphics so you can do screen dumps as well as some very nice printing, here are some of the possibilities:

EXTENDED CHARACTERS EXTENDED & ENHANCED

This is normal PICA, 10 cpi.

This is the ELITE, 12 cpi.

This is scrunched or very tiny printing.

And now we have the much touted proportional spacing.

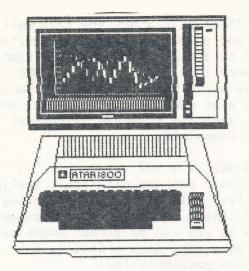
Now for the scientist we have π^2 , or this, 6×10^8 , and there are more.

Normal CAPS in enhanced mode are shown as the title of this article, and finally this brings us to do some underlining of a word or two and it can be turned on or off at at will.

So much for the printing capabilities, another nice feature is the paper handling. There is a variable width pin feed, and a rubber platten for feeding single sheets of any width up to 10".

Thats about it for general specs, how much you say, well you can get them for from \$600 to \$800. I got mine from ON-LINE at the Almaden Fashion Plaza. Good luck on your horse trading.

Vic Rogers



10 DIM A\$(50)

380 DATA 96

20 ? "BASIC COMMAND TO ISSUE"

30 INPUT A\$ 40 OPEN #1,8,0,"D:AUTORUN.SYS" 50 FUT #1,255 60 PUT #1,255 70 FUT #1,0 80 FUT #1,6 90 L=61+LEN(A\$)-1 100 PUT #1,L 110 FUT #1,6 120 FOR I=1 TO 61 130 READ D 140 IF I=12 THEN PUT #1, LEN(A\$): GOTO 160 150 PUT #1,D 160 NEXT I 170 FOR I=LEN(A\$) TO 1 STEP -1 180 PUT #1,ASC(A\$(I,I)) 190 NEXT I 200 PUT #1,252 210 PUT #1,1 220 PUT #1,254 230 FUT #1,1 240 FUT #1,255 250 PUT #1,5 260 CLOSE #1 270 END 320 DATA 169,18,141,33,3,169,6,141,34,3 330 DATA 169,10,141,128,6,76,105,243,251,243 340 DATA 51,246,33,6,163,246,51,246,60,246 350 DATA 76,228,243,0,172,128,6,240,9,185

360 DATA 60,6,206,128,6,160,1,96,140,33 370 DATA 3,169,228,141,34,3,169,155,160,1 The out of warranty repair rates for ATARI products are as follows:

8/16K RAM ----- \$25,00 + parts

10k ROM/800 O.S. - \$25.00 + parts

Multiple repair rate is the same as the sum of all rates of those products submitted for repair (except whne an 825 is accompanied by an 850, in which case the rate of the repaired product will apply)

(that's the end of the ATARI text now some from me. The price on the Data seperator upgrade is good, about what it should be in view of the fact that ATARI was told by the manufacturer of the drive unit that they should use a data seperator and chose not to do so. The rate on the GTIA update and the ROM "C" update are outrageous if that is all they do when your unit is brought in. I have done both to my units myself and neither takes unskilled labor more than 10 or 15 minutes at most. If they continue to go over the whole unit whenever it is brought in, then and only then, is it a reasonable price. The prices on the other stuff look pretty reasonable to me as in these cases ATARI doesn't know what is wrong and there is no guarantee of how much technician time is going to be spent. I feel that the prices on the two upgrades of older units to the standards of the newer ones are an example of a total lack of interest in supporting the person who has already made a purchase. This attitude has already driven some potential buyers to less sophisticated machines. I am told by some who certainly are in a position to know that things are going to improve. I sure hope so.

Dave Flory

The current membership list is printed here in both alphabetical and zipcode order, so you can check for people who live near you who are currently paid members of the club. We did not print the addresses so no one should come knocking on your door unless you give them your address first.

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Jim Vaughan, 415 948-1158, Los Altos, 94022

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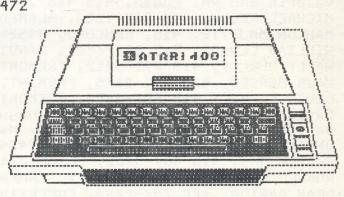
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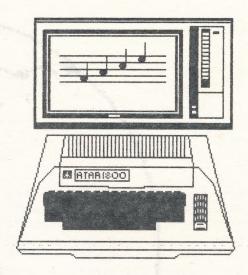


ATARI PERSONAL

20 REM BAUG 30 REM 40 ? "} + DOODLE + " 50 ? "* Write with ' JOYSTICK '. 60 ? "* Erase with ' TRIGGER 'on." 70 ? "* Color select with'ANY KEY'" 80 ? "* Clear screen & change size" 90 ? "of paint brush with 'START'." 100 ? " TO BEGIN, press 'ANY KEY'" 110 IF PEEK (764) = 255 THEN 110 120 E=40:F=24:D=3:G=1 130 GRAPHICS 19: COLOR 1: POKE 710,66 140 B=20:C=13:PLOT B.C 150 REM * * STICK MOVEMENT * * 160 DN STICK(0) GDTD 0,0,0,0,200,180,230,0,220,240,210,0,190,170,250 170 C=C-1:GOTO 250 180 B=B+1:C=C-1:GOTO 250 190 C=C+1:GOTO 250 200 B=B+1:C=C+1:GOTO 250 210 B=B-1:GOTO 250 220 B=B-1:C=C+1:GOTO 250 230 B=B+1:GOTO 250 240 B=B-1:C=C-1 250 IF B=0 THEN B=1 260 IF C=0 THEN C=1 270 IF B=E THEN B=E-1 280 IF C=F THEN C=F-1 290 IF PEEK (53279) <> 7 THEN 410 300 IF PEEK (764) <>255 THEN 500 310 IF STRIG(0)<>0 THEN 370 320 REM * * ERASE * * 330 COLOR O 340 PLOT X.Y 350 COLOR 6 360 REM * * DRAW * * 370 PLOT B.C 380 X=B:Y=C 390 GOTO 160 400 REM * * CHANGE SIZE * * 410 ON D GOTO 420,0,420,0,430,0,440 420 D=5:E=80:F=48:GOTO 450 430 D=7:E=160:F=95:GOTO 450 440 D=3:E=40:F=23 450 REM PLOT 1.1 460 GRAPHICS D+16: POKE 710,66 470 B=E/2:C=INT(F/2):PLOT B,C 480 FOR H=1 TO 80:NEXT H:GOTO 380 490 REM * * CHANGE COLOR * * 500 G=G+1: IF G=4 THEN G=1 510 COLOR G: POKE 764, 255 520 POKE 710,66:GOTO 160

530 END

10 REM PROGRAM BY BRUCE DEWING



ATARI 825 PRINTER IN EXCELLENT CONDITION with packing box and manual and with connecting cable. \$425 firm. 415/965-9355 Clyde Spencer

We recently received ten copies of "De Re Atari" free to the club. We'll give away one free to anyone who submits an article or program of one page column in length, i.e. 8 1/2 X 3 1/2 inches typed. Excellent source of information on the internal workings of the Atari and things like scrolling, interrupts, character sets, etc. A must for anyone who aspires to get the most out of his ATARI.

GOOD DISK BUY

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Anyone interested in a mask for VISICALC which calculates the value of an investment (originally designed for IRA's) see me for a free copy. Just bring your disk. Dave Flory

